



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 12 March 2018

Cabinet Member Question Session

Purpose:	To enable the Committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore Cabinet Members' priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to areas of responsibility.
Content:	The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee to participate in a question and answer session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters• Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Business Intelligence
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1. Introduction

1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the council's cabinet to account. The cabinet is made up of the Leader and 9 additional councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific responsibilities:

Cllr Rob Stewart	- Economy & Strategy (Leader)
Cllr Clive Lloyd	- Service Transformation & Business Operations (Deputy Leader)
Cllr Jennifer Raynor	- Children, Education & Lifelong Learning
Cllr David Hopkins	- Commercial Opportunities & Innovation

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies	- Culture, Tourism & Major Projects
Cllr Mark Thomas	- Environment Services
Cllr June Burtonshaw /	- Future Generations
Cllr Mary Sherwood	
Cllr Mark Child	- Health & Wellbeing
Cllr Andrea Lewis	- Housing, Energy & Building Services
Cllr Will Evans	- Stronger Communities

1.2 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and monitor performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.

1.3 Cabinet Member Question Sessions have become a main feature of Committee meetings. At least one cabinet member is scheduled to appear at each monthly Committee meeting, ensuring all Cabinet Members appear before the Committee over the course of a year, in order to ask questions on their work. Questions will focus on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

2. Cabinet Member Question Session

2.1 The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee:

- a) Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects

Within this cabinet portfolio, he is responsible for:

- City of Culture Bid (and subsequent delivery)
- Heritage incl. River Corridor Development
- Science City
- Universities
- Creative City
- Tourism & Destination Marketing
- The Arts & Galleries
- Sports Facilities
- Parks Beaches & Foreshore
- City Waterfront & Marina
- Healthy Cities/Greener Cities
- Healthy Night Life/Purple Flag
- Healthy City Partnership
- Libraries
- City Centre Management, Projects & Developments (City Deal & City of Culture)
- Mayoral & Civic Functions
- Events
- Poverty Reduction
- Lead Elements of Sustainable Swansea

3. Approach to Questions

3.1 At the Cabinet Member Question Sessions the Committee will generally ask cabinet members about:

- relevant priorities / objectives, notable activities and achievements, improvement / impact made, and service user / public engagement.
- what they hope to achieve over the coming months and challenges, including any key decisions they plan take to Cabinet over the next year.
- reflections on their engagement with scrutiny and whether there is any issue relevant to their portfolio that they would suggest for scrutiny, not otherwise covered in the work programme – to ensure scrutiny activity is aligned to priorities and focussed on the right things.

3.2 In terms of themes that cut across all cabinet portfolios, the Committee is interested in asking Cabinet Members about:

- impact of Well-being of Future Generations Act – impact on their work / decisions e.g. whether there is a greater focus on long-term thinking, collaboration / involvement etc
- Public Services Board (PSB) – their relationship with the work of the PSB; how the PSB impacts on their portfolio and how it is making a difference etc

3.3 Amongst other things the following will be raised with the Cabinet Member: the Dylan Thomas Heritage – the cultural, tourism and economic benefits this could bring to Swansea.

3.4 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee. The Cabinet Member has provided a report on 'headlines' in relation to the portfolio to help the Committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact – see **Appendix 1**.

3.5 Following the session the chair will write to the Cabinet Member in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.6 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during this item then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

4. Previous Correspondence

4.1 Amongst the issues discussed during the relevant Q & A session last year (October 2016) included:

- City Centre
- Civic Centre
- City Region City Deal
- Suburban Centres
- Culture (Arts)
- Universities,

Relevant correspondence between the committee and cabinet member is attached, as the Committee may wish to follow up on these issues and previous discussion, as necessary.

4.2 Other relevant contact with scrutiny since October 2016:

Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Panel:

- Libraries - The Panel annually look at the Welsh Public Library Standards and did so recently on 7 February 2018.

Committee Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Castle Square:

The Committee has been keeping a close watch on the proposed regeneration / development of Castle Square and has carried out pre-decision scrutiny on the reports that he had presented to Cabinet. This happened in March and October 2017. It has been agreed that any future reports will also be subject to pre-decision scrutiny.

Development & Regeneration Performance Panel:

The Committee has established a Panel to focus on quarterly monitoring of Development & Regeneration plans and activities. This is also relevant to the Leader's cabinet portfolio. The Panel has met on two occasions (September and December 2017) although has not yet met with Councillor Francis-Davies or written to him, but will do in due course.

The Cabinet Member will also be engaged in the following planned / future activities:

- Development & Regeneration Performance Panel (ongoing)
- Archive Service Working Group

5. Other Questions

5.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Session the Committee invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions.

5.2 On this occasion no questions have been received.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Cabinet Portfolio – Key Headlines

Appendix 2: Previous Correspondence